

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 107915

O 031223Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3815

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 20391

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF WASHDC FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC, GW, AWACS

SUBJECT: AWACS

REF: (A) BONN 20175; (B) STATE 292828; (C) SECDEF TO

USDAO NO. 9043, DTG 030041Z

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTELS A AND B, AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE AND I CALLED THIS MORNING ON FRG FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF TO DISCUSS AWACS. GEHLHOFF BEGAN BY STATING THAT FONMIN GENSCHER WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE MET WITH STRAUSZ-HUPE, BUT COULD NOT DO SO BECAUSE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL BUSINESS.

2. AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CHANCE TO SEE GEHLHOFF AND MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--OUR REQUEST FOR THIS CALL REFLECTED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM. IT ALSO REFLECTED HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN WORKING ON THE GREAT THINGS THAT THE ALLIANCE COULD DO TOGETHER.

--AWACS REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT MILITARY ADVANCE,

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FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TEN YEARS. IT WILL MAKE OUR

DEFENSES COMPLETE, OR AT LEAST MORE COMPLETE.

--THE FRG DECISION WAS CRUCIAL. WE UNDERSTOOD ITS CONCERNS REGARDING THE BUNDESTAG ROLE. HOWEVER, THE DPC SHOULD STRESS THAT WHICH WE HAVE AGREED RATHER THAN THOSE THINGS ON WHICH WE STILL DISAGREED.

--AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING PAPER, STATING THAT THIS WAS A FORMULA THAT COULD PERHAPS OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE FRG AND THAT WE HOPED THE FRG WOULD BE ABLE TO FOLLOW ITS LANGUAGE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE IN ITS STATEMENT AT THE DPC NEXT WEEK:

"MY AUTHORITIES CONFIRM THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING PROGRAM AND HOPE THAT ALLIES WILL AGREE THAT SUFFICIENT PROMISE OF A NATO PROGRAM EXISTS THAT WE SHOULD ASK SENIOR LEVEL FINANCIAL REPRESENTATIVES TO REVIEW AND REFINE THE PRESENT PROPOSALS. THIS REFINEMENT COULD FORM A BASIS FOR ENDORSEMENT BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND SUBSEQUENT NATIONAL APPROVAL."

3. GEHLHOFF REPLIED THAT NATO AND EC REPRESENTED THE CORNERSTONES OF FRG FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT THE FRG WOULD CONTINUE ITS FULL ROLE AND SUPPORT OF NATO AS A GENERAL STAND.

4. AS FOR AWACS, GEHLHOFF SAID, THE GERMAN MILITARY BELIEVED IT WAS USEFUL AND NECESSARY. THE POLITICAL MILITARY PEOPLE ALSO HAVE SAID THAT IT WOULD STRENGTHEN NATO AS A WHOLE.

5. GEHLHOFF LISTED TWO RESERVATIONS REGARDING AWACS:

--GERMAN EXPERTS AND MILITARY PEOPLE WOULD STILL HAVE TO STUDY CERTAIN DETAILS ON HOW TO COMBINE AWACS WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF GROUND SYSTEMS.

--A WAY WOULD SILL HAVE TO BE FOUND TO FINANCE AWACS, OR AT LEAST THE GERMAN PART OF IT.

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6. AS FOR THE BUNDESTAG ROLE, UNDER ITS PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM THE FRG COULD NOT GIVE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, GEHLHOFF SAID. HE SAID THIS WOULD NOT BE CONSTITUTIONAL IN GERMANY. STRAUSZ-HUPE REPLIED THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE NEXT WEEK IF THE SITUATION OF ONE OF OUR FRIENDS WAS

NOTE BY OC/T: BOTH SECTIONS NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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----- 107921

O 031223Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3816

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 20391

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NOT TO BECOME EXTREMELY PRECARIOUS.

7. I POINTED OUT THAT THE STATEMENT WE PROPOSED WOULD SOUND A POSITIVE NOTE WHICH WOULD BE IMPORTANT.

8. GEHLHOFF AGREED THAT IT SOUNDED A POSITIVE NOTE AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT SOMETHING BE SAID NEXT WEEK. HE OBSERVED THAT HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT IN DETAIL. HIS NATO EXPERT, MR. PFEFFER, OBSERVED THAT THE KEY WORDS IN THE US PROPOSAL WERE THE WORDS "HOPE...SUFFICIENT PROMISE..(AND) COULD." HE BELIEVED THOSE WORDS MIGHT GIVE ENOUGH LEEWAY.

9. STRAUSZ-HUPE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE MAJOR ALLIES TO TAKE THE LEAD AS FAR AS THE SMALLER STATES WERE CONCERNED. IN THIS RESPECT, THE FRG ROLE WOULD BE CRUCIAL.

10. GEHLHOFF SAID HE APPRECIATED THIS POINT AND NOTED AGAIN THAT THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL/MILITARY STAFFS FAVORED AWACS. HE SAID THE GERMAN PROBLEM WOULD BE TO SETTLE CERTAIN DETAILS AND TO DETERMINE HOW TO FINANCE AWACS. IN ESSENCE, HE OBSERVED, WE WOULD HAVE TO SEE HOW TO GIVE AWACS SUFFICIENT PUSH NEXT WEEK WITHOUT MAKING STATEMENTS THAT WOULD BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

11. THE GERMANS ASKED WHETHER THE FOREIGN MINISTERS

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AS WELL AS THE DEFENSE MINISTERS MIGHT DISCUSS AWACS
NEXT WEEK, TO WHICH AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE REPLIED
THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE BUT NOT NOW PLANNED.

12. WE ALSO INFORMED GEHLHOFF OF THE LETTER FROM
SECRETARY RUMSFELD TO MINISTER LEBER (REF C) AND
TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD DELIVER IT TO FINGERHUT THIS
AFTERNOON. GEHLHOFF CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT AMBAS-
SADOR PAULS WAS CURRENTLY IN BONN AND WOULD BE TALKING
TO GENSCHER TONIGHT. HE SAID THIS WOULD OFFER AN
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE AWACS ISSUE AND THE PAPER
THAT AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE HAD BROUGHT.

STOESSEL

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